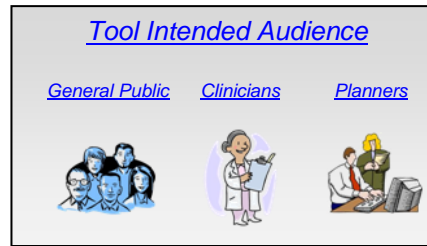


Objective 10: Increase Students Entering Kindergarten Ready to Learn

Maryland SHIP Vision Area 2: Healthy Social Environments
Tools, Resources, and Promising Practices
updated February 2012



Tools and Resources

[The Community Guide](#)

Provides information on evidence-based comprehensive, center-based programs for children of low-income families.



Promising Practices

[Head Start and Early Head Start](#)

National program that provides educational, nutritional, health, and social services to children and their families, with emphasis on parental involvement; specifically for children ages 3 to 5 (Head Start) and 0 to 3 (Early Head Start) from low-income families.



[North Carolina Smart Start](#)

A strategy to improve readiness to learn by kindergarten through local private-public partnerships with strong community direction to make decisions on how best to meet the needs of the children and families based on established, measurable statewide goals.



[Reach out and Read](#)

ROR is a non-profit that partners with pediatricians to incorporate early learning into well-child visits from six months to five years. The program provides age and culturally appropriate books at each appointment.



[Countdown to Kindergarten](#)

Countdown to Kindergarten is a non-profit that works to inform and support parents in beginning early education at home.



[Read, Educate, and Develop Youth \(READY\)](#)

Michigan's R.E.A.D.Y. program works to increase awareness among parents and caregivers of the importance of early learning. R.E.A.D.Y. kits are available with learning materials, books, and audio and visual materials.



[Parenting Classes](#)

Free parenting classes in conjunction with existing childhood development programs (administered concurrently as to minimize daycare needs). Community partnerships with WIC, parenting class groups, and local supermarkets/food stores. Incentive would be credit given based on completion of classes to be used towards food and housing.

